

A PLACE CALLED RESTON

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

Dustine F. Ransom

Joy Medford
Thesis Advisor

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In the 1960s, the American landscape was altered at a rate of one million acres per year by suburban development. At this time, Robert E. Simon, Jr., decided to build a new town in Northern Virginia. He dreamed of creating a special kind of community - a city in the country. It was to be not only a new type of community, but also would offer a new way of life for the residents (Netherton 1989). Robert Simon called his new town "Reston", using his initials and the suffix "ton", the English word for town. Reston was subsequently located on a site in northwest Fairfax County, Virginia, approximately eighteen miles west of Washington, D.C..

This paper reviews the sequence of historical land ownership in the area and describes the development of Reston according to Simon's Master Plan for the town.

Historical Settlement and Land Ownership

Ownership of the land upon which Reston was built has a history as interesting as Reston itself. Three and a half centuries ago in the year 1649, King Charles II gave seven loyal and exiled Englishmen the Northern Neck Proprietary in the American colony. These seven men, given full rights to the land, could build forts and towns, create colleges and churches, lease the land or give it away. Several years later, heirs of the seven Englishmen inherited the land. Two of these heirs were Thomas, Second Lord of Culpeper, and his cousin, Alexander Culpeper. Upon Thomas' death in 1689, five sixths of the Northern Neck Proprietary land was given to his daughter Catherine, who later married Thomas, Fifth Lord Fairfax. During their marriage, Catherine and Thomas had five children; one of whom became Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax.

Between the years 1710 and 1719, Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax inherited his parents' and his grandmother Margaret Lady Culpeper's shares of the land, which

gave him 100% ownership of the Northern Neck Proprietary. In 1732, Thomas appointed William Fairfax as his agent to the Northern Neck Proprietary and collector of customs on the south Potomac. Thomas arrived in Virginia in 1735 to survey his Proprietary. The survey determined 5,280,000 acres of land comprised the Northern Neck Proprietary. A manor called Great Falls composed 12,188 of those acres.

In 1741, William Fairfax moved his family north from their Westmoreland County, Virginia, home to Belvoir in Prince William County. Also in this year, William had the name of Prince William County changed to Fairfax County to reflect his family name.

During the course of these events, Thomas renounced his interest in Leeds Castle, England, and other English property to his younger brother Robert in return for control of the Northern Neck Proprietary. Thomas then moved to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. After Thomas had his Proprietary surveyed, he gave William Fairfax' son Bryan, who later became the Eighth Lord Fairfax, Great Falls Manor in 1765. In 1802 when Bryan died, Great Falls Manor passed to his son Thomas, the Ninth Lord Fairfax of Ash Grove. Forty-one years later, Thomas the Ninth gave a large portion of greater than 8,600 acres of Great Falls Manor to his son Reginald. It was during this generation that the land first left possession of the family. While Reginald was on navel duty in 1852, he sold his inherited two parcels of land containing 8663 acres to attorney Benjamin Thornton of Orange County, Virginia, for \$43,000 (approximately \$5 per acre.) During Thornton's ownership, the westward railroad expansion began in the area; and Thornton's parcels were located south of the railroad's right of way.

Both Baltimore, Maryland, and Alexandria, Virginia seaports were competing for international commerce. The Maryland seaport had already strengthened its

competitive position with its railroad expansion into the western interior in the 1830s. Alexandria needed a plan to stay competitive with the Baltimore seaport. With the help of prominent Alexandria business men and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Alexandria, Loudon and Hampshire Railroad was constructed in the year 1853. At the same time the railroad right-of-way moved west, dividing the Thornton property in half, and taking more than 45 acres.

Several years later the tract of land then known as Thornton's Station was purchased by the Virginia Electric Power Company for use as a linear park for the Washington and Old Dominion trail. Less than seven years after the Alexandria, Loudon and Hampshire Railroad divided the Thornton tract, the property reverted to the Circuit Court of Alexandria for unsettled litigation. The court decided to keep the divided Thornton tract as one parcel and put it on the market for sale. Dr. Carl Adolph Max Wiehle and William McKee Dunn jointly purchased the land in 1866 and partitioned it between themselves.

After apportioning the land, Wiehle took 3,228 acres north of the railroad, and Dunn took 3,221 acres to the south. In addition to the Thornton tract acreage, Dunn also took ownership of greater than 700 acres of Lee Woods which sat west of Falls Church, Virginia. It was here Dunn planned to build a resort with his friend George B. Loring. However, William Dunn passed away that same year, and the resort was never completed. William Dunn's efforts were not forgotten, however, for just west of Falls Church today lies a city named Dunn Loring. After William Dunn's death, his portion of the Thornton tract was willed to his wife Elizabeth Lazier Dunn, who sold her inheritance to Fairfax Lumber Company in 1908, after only thirteen years of ownership.

Meanwhile, Max Wiehle wished to build a town to carry his name. In 1887 Wiehle approached the United States post office and officially changed the town name from Thornton Station to Wiehle. With the help of surveyor Joseph Barry, Max Wiehle designed a city plan containing streets, curved avenues, parks, lakes, home building sites, a school, and an industrial area. To establish the new town, Max Wiehle placed the newly formed Virginia Lumber and Manufacturing Company in control of Wiehle's development. An icehouse, three small lakes, a post office, a general store, a lumber mill, a talc and asbestos mill, a brickyard, a hardware store and church, and the Aesculapian Hotel were built.

Although part of Max Wiehle's prosperity had come from his wife's family's brewery business, Mr. Wiehle strongly contested alcoholic beverages. In accordance with his beliefs, Max Wiehle had a provision put into the land's deed forbidding alcohol, malt liquor, wine or other intoxicating beverages to be manufactured, sold or kept for the purpose of sale on the property at any time. If this provision was broken, the title and possession of the property were to revert back to the original owners, their successors or assignees.

In 1898 the Virginia assembly granted the town of Wiehle a charter, which remained in effect until February 1989, when the State of Virginia revoked it. One year after the town received its charter, Erskin M. Sunderland finished the plans for the Wiehle mansion. Max Wiehle never had the pleasure of spending his days in his new dwelling, however, for he died of pneumonia before it was completed. His family tried to uphold Mr. Wiehle's dream but were unable to do so.

In 1908, the family sold 3,500 acres to Dr. Hugh B. Hutchison and William Crighton of Herndon, Virginia. Hutchison and Crighton used the land mostly for agricultural purposes. Several years after purchasing the land, Crighton sold his share to Hutchison, who later changed the town name from Wiehle to Sunset Hills. Mr. Hutchison also would not enjoy his new town, for he became ill and passed away a short time later.

A. Smith Bowman, Sr. was living in Indianapolis, Indiana, when in 1927 his family discussed buying a farm in Kentucky. Smith Bowman sent his younger son to buy a copy of the Louisville Courier Journal so he could review the properties for sale. Instead his son returned with a Cincinnati Enquirer. The son's mistake proved to be beneficial, for in the Enquirer was the ad for Sunset Hills, the late Dr. Hutchison's 4,000 acre farm in Fairfax County, Virginia. On September 30, 1927, A. Smith Bowman and his family purchased the farm for cash from the Hutchison heirs.

Mr. Bowman's original intentions for the farm included raising dairy and beef cattle, horses and harvesting grain. However, when prohibition was repealed in 1933, Bowman decided to open a distillery to manufacture Fairfax County, and Virginia Gentlemen bourbons. However, his land was restricted by Dr. Wiehle's prohibition of the manufacture, sale or storage of alcoholic beverages, and this provision had to be renegotiated.

After World War II, Bowman purchased 3,140 acres of the old Dunn tract. With this purchase, the Bowmans had the largest single tract in the county and one of the largest working farms in Virginia (Netherton). During the 1950s, Fairfax County underwent conversions of farm lands to residential subdivisions. The Bowmans made

plans to convert their farm into a satellite city which would contain fifteen hundred acres of parks, bridle paths, a wildlife refuge, swimming pools, and fish ponds. The new city would also contain an industrial area, shopping centers, churches, and other facilities which would create a "self-contained community" (Netherton).

There were some elements, however, which prevented the Bowman plan from being realized. One of these was difficulty obtaining the necessary zoning under existing county ordinances. Another problem was the water supply the new town would use. And finally, the newly built Dulles Access road connecting the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area with the newly built Dulles Airport in Chantilly, Virginia, split the Bowman tract into two separate land parcels.

Facing all these hindrances, the Bowmans decided to sell their farm and distillery to Lefcourt Realty in April 1960. Lefcourt was unaware of the problems the access road posed for their investment. Within one year of purchase, Lefcourt sold Sunset Hills (less the distillery which returned to the Bowman family) to Robert E. Simon, Jr..

Robert E. Simon, Jr.'s family owned Carnegie Hall in New York City. Simon sold the hall and used the proceeds to purchase the Sunset Hills farm. His new investment consisted of meadows, woods, stream valleys, and low rising hills. It was crossed by roads and trails, and bisected by both the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad and the new Dulles Access Road (Netherton).

Simon's business in New York also included property management, and from his experience grew his new town concept for the newly acquired land. Although this

idea had been attempted by previous land owners, the magnitude of Simon's new town far surpassed those of his predecessors.

Reston's Development

Simon took an innovative approach to town planning, initially formulating seven personal goals for Reston:

1. The widest choice of opportunities be made available for the full use of leisure time. This means the New Town should provide a wide range of recreational and cultural facilities as well as an environment for privacy.
2. It be possible for anyone to remain in a single neighborhood throughout his life, uprooting being neither inevitable nor always desirable. By providing the fullest possible range of efficiencies to six-bedroom townhouses and detached houses-housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels, and at different stages of family life. This kind of mixture permits residents to remain rooted in the community-if they so choose-as their particular housing needs change. As a by-product, this also results in the heterogeneity that spells a lively and varied community.
3. The importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence over large-scale concept.
4. People be able to live and work in the same community.
5. Commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development-not years later.
6. Beauty-structural and natural-is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.
7. Reston be a financial success (Grubisich and McCandless 1985).

Reston was an ideal in the imagination of Robert E. Simon. He chose many of the goals based on circumstances he faced in New York. In order to boat, ice skate, swim or play tennis, one had to belong to a club. Also, since most of the New York population commuted, social activity outside work was limited. He envisioned a place

where people would have a swimming pool, tennis courts, and open space for recreational activities within walking distance of their homes. Simon wanted his country-city to be more than a place to live; he wanted it to furnish a way of life. He wanted Reston to offer a new kind of housing scheme and a closer relationship of home to recreation, within a framework of careful planning for total community life (Gulf Reston 1970). He envisioned a place where people could come together, live next to one another, and work together.

Simon based Reston's Plan on two convictions:

- *People should be able to do the things they enjoy, near their homes, and
- *Many Americans want the stability of belonging to one community for a lifetime (Simon Enterprises c.a. 1961).

Simon believed Reston's Master Plan should be shaped by innovative land use. He also viewed Reston as a unique, private real estate venture integrating residence, industry, commerce, education, religion, culture, social and recreational activity (Gulf Reston 1970). Before any plans were created for Reston, a new zoning ordinance had to be created and submitted to Fairfax County for approval. Under the existing zoning ordinance, residential, industrial and commercial facilities were not permitted to be in the same area. Simon's philosophy regarding town planning was expressed in this statement:

"Our present zoning ordinances are largely responsible for the diffusion of our communities into separate, unrelated hunks without focus, identity, or community life. They have helped produce chaos on our highways, monotony in our subdivisions, ugliness in our shopping centers. They are to blame for the whole neon-lighted wasteland that exists because of the subdivision's separation from commercial and recreational facilities" (Gulf Reston, 1970, p. 11).

Fairfax County approved the amendment for Reston in June 1962, and the new Residential Planned Community Zoning Ordinance allowed Reston's planners to create a community with a greater diversity of housing facilities, a better plan for open space, and improved aesthetics. The ordinances allowed for three different types of density areas: high (60 people per acre), medium (14 per acre), and low (3.8 per acre) and for three types of zones (Gulf Reston). In the first zone, in addition to residential dwellings, Simon intended to build Village Centers to be social gathering places. By incorporating homes above shops, the centers were to be a lively, active and vital part of the community. The RPC's permission for this first type of zone not only allowed for the mixture of housing and retail in the Village Centers, but also for high-rise buildings on Lake Anne.

The second zone created medium and high density residential development. When Reston was planned, its public factor was 42 percent compared to Fairfax County's standard of 30 percent. With this above normal public factor, a large portion of Reston's land was set aside for open space, roads, parks, golf courses, walkways, schools, churches, community and recreational facilities.

The third type of zoning allowed under the amended RPC was separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The new RPC permitted pathways to be intertwined among the housing clusters, connecting them to schools and to Village Centers. The walkways provided safer routes for pedestrians, and the opportunity for pedestrians to enjoy the natural surroundings.

Simon put the future residents of Reston first when he and the firm of Whittlesey and Conklin designed the Master Plan. They didn't want the typical concentric bull's

eye plan of past towns. The idea of having the densest area of the community surrounded by a green belt did not appeal to Simon or Whittlesey and Conklin. They desired instead a place where the open space would be used for recreation rather than protection, with high density sinews winding through the town from north to south, and where all residents were within walking distance of recreational areas (Gulf Reston).

Included in Reston's Master Plan are six major areas composing the town (Fig. 1). These areas include residential, recreational and open space, community facilities and schools, village centers, business and research and development, and the Town Center district. The general plan devoted 4,100 acres to residential areas, 1,100 acres to park and public use, 900 acres to industrial and government use, 400 acres to two 18-hole and three nine-hole golf courses, 200 acres to village centers and the Town Center, and 100 acres to lakes (Simon Enterprises).

Another interesting facet of Reston's Master Plan is that every home, school, and community structure in Reston was planned for in the 1960s. Reston's planners had all the electrical and plumbing lines installed underground at every building site. This was done to prevent future unearthing of sites when construction was to begin. Today a high school and an elementary school are being built upon the sites designated in the 1962 Master Plan. Even Reston's Town Center, which began construction in 1989, was a part of Reston's original plan.

Four types of residential facilities offer many diverse opportunities for home life in Reston (Fig. 1). These include detached single family dwellings, townhouses, apartments and condominiums. One residential area of Reston, the medium density

FIGURE 1

RESTON

MASTER PLAN

- Single Family
- Townhomes
- Apartments/Condominiums
- Parks/Open Space/Tennis/Pools
- Community Use/Schools/Churches/
Child Care
- Lakes
- Town Center District
- Town Center Urban Core
Office/Retail/Hotels/Residential
- Business and R & D
- Village Centers/Convenience Retail



The master plan may be amended from time to time and should not be considered as final with respect to the manner in which a particular parcel of land will be developed and used. Development may occur only after land has been zoned to the P.R.C. category. Approved developments plans, special use permits and other documents on file with the County of Fairfax should be consulted to obtain current detailed information regarding specific parcels shown above. This plan can only be modified by approval of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Location of community facilities, roads, walkways and related amenities are approximate and actual locations may vary from that shown on this plan. Master Plan amended 2/87

area, was planned to obtain the maximum use of available land and to minimize outdoor maintenance. The housing units in this area are grouped into compact clusters with maximum open land areas behind the homes. Rather than individual backyards, wooded areas for recreational activities are used by those in the cluster.

Along with the four dwelling types, different environmental settings are also offered. The first is village center housing for urban excitement. Living in the heart of a village center offers all the excitement of the city without the inconveniences. In this type of housing, small convenience shops, such as beauty salons and pharmacies are readily accessible to the residents. The second type of housing focuses on housing clusters with recreational interests. Reston offers homes on lake shores for those interested in water sports, homes on golf course borders for the avid golfer, and homes on the edge of open space for those who have varied recreational interests. The third type of housing found in Reston consists of homes in a social setting. Home clustering not only allows the homes to be built according to the topography of the land, but also allows a sense of neighborhood comradery. Housing of this type has playgrounds situated along nearby paths and trees. This space provides for sociability among adults as well as a safe haven for children (Simon Enterprises).

To ensure an attractive atmosphere throughout the residential areas and the community itself, the Architectural Review Board (ARB) of Reston was created. All changes in the physical appearance of any property were made with approval of the ARB. The ARB had many protective covenants concerning the use of property. One covenant prohibited the airing or drying of clothing in areas exposed to view. Another regulated placement of television antennas, fences, plantings, and signs. The

provision governing antennas was disbanded, however, after a plan to provide each home with cable television was created (Netherton).

Reston was planned to meet the phenomenon of increasing leisure time. Reston's founder believed recreation could be a natural part of day-to-day living if it was available and accessible to residents. Forty-two percent of Reston's land was designated for use as public space, created with both adults and children in mind (Fig. 1). Four lakes, two 18-hole golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, playgrounds, ball diamonds, and soccer fields provide a wide range of activities to fulfill Simon's goal of full use of leisure time. To make certain people had the opportunity to partake in these activities, recreational facilities were placed within walking distance of each home (Simon Enterprises).

Reston was planned to provide the residents with more than a home. A unique attribute about the public space is its ownership by the Reston residents. In addition to becoming a home owner in Reston, one also becomes part owner of Reston's open space surrounding the homes. The Parks and public space are maintained by RA- Reston Association (formerly known as RHOA-Reston Home Owners' Association). RA cares for commonly held land and facilities, which include open space, parking areas, pathways, streets, and other public properties. RA was incorporated and given power to assess residents with annual dues to meet maintenance expenses. Many of the swimming pools, tennis courts, and golf courses are maintained by separate fees paid by the users of such facilities. In addition to RA, each cluster has its own association. The cluster associations, having the same power as RA, care for the

adjacent open space to the clusters. Membership in an association is automatic when property is owned in a cluster (Netherton).

Community, School and Church facilities complete the third area of Reston's Master Plan (Fig. 1). Simon began implementing his idea of a socially balanced community early by hiring Carol Lubin to oversee the Reston Community Fund. This program was the parent to many smaller programs such as social community development, local government and administration, social structure, economics, education, recreation, health, transportation, communication, and community problems (Netherton 1989). One of the smaller programs was the Common Ground Foundation established by Embry Rucker. For many years this foundation provided Reston with the Coffee House, a day care center, bus service, information service, and part-time jobs. Reston Interfaith Housing Corporation (RIHC), organized in 1970, addressed the housing needs for low and moderate income families. RIHC also provided nonprofit hospital and health care for the handicapped and elderly. In 1984, the RIHC was succeeded by Reston Interfaith, Inc. Other community services provided in Reston include food and nutrition programs, job placement and counseling, youth programs, clothing resource center, social service information and referral, and support and development of affordable housing (Netherton).

A sense of community was very important to Reston's creator. He wished the residents to feel a part of the total Reston and not only a part of their cluster. For Reston to have a community aspect, Simon proposed Community centers for each village center. Some of the centers had art galleries, and others had small theatres. However, the residents wanted a larger sense of togetherness. Following two

attempts to build a large-scale community center, Reston residents formed a Community Center Task Force in April 1972. To finance the center, the task force created a Special Service District to sell revenue bonds. People in the district were so excited about the center they taxed themselves to pay for it. Located in Hunters Woods Village with programs and facilities designed to meet the community's economic, cultural, recreational, educational, and social needs, the Community Center has as its mission to bring people together and develop a sense of community pride (Netherton). The Center provides a 266-seat theater, 25 meter indoor swimming pool, photography darkroom, woodshop, social hall, snack bar, art studio, dance studio, and seven meeting rooms and class rooms (Netherton).

The performing arts also play an important role in Reston. In 1966, the Reston Community Players and the Reston Chorale were founded. The Players have performed such great works as *The Greatest Game in Town*, *Dracula*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Sleep of Prisoners*, *Private Lives*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Mousetrap*, and Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* (Netherton). The Reston Chorale is composed of one hundred amateur and semi-professional singers performing both traditional and contemporary music at four concerts per year in the Reston Community Center.

Reston schools are part of the Fairfax County school system. In addition to being the tenth largest public school system, Fairfax County schools are also one of the best. This is evident by the high standards and policies set forth by the Fairfax County School Board. But standards and policies aren't all which set these schools

apart. Many National Merit, National Achievement, and Presidential Scholars have come from Fairfax County schools (Netherton).

Reston currently has only one high school although a second high school is under construction in North Point Village in accordance with Reston's Master Plan. The students living south of the Dulles Access Road attend South Lakes High School, while the students located north of the Access Road attend nearby Herndon High School. Reston is also served by Langston Hughs, Reston's only intermediate school, and seven elementary schools. Among the current seven elementary schools is Terraset Elementary, this country's first earth-sheltered elementary school with a solar heat reclamation system. Terraset put Reston in the spotlight once more with innovative architectural design and thoughtful planning (Netherton).

Reston's fourth area is comprised of village centers (Fig. 1). Seven centers were originally planned; however, today only five have been developed. Among the five centers are North Point Village, Tall Oaks Village, Hunters Woods Village, South Lakes Village, and Lake Anne Village. Each village center has an individual character determined by its topography. Located on special ground, each village center's architectural form is designed to integrate with its topography and natural features. For example, Tall Oaks was built above steep ravines and resembles the European hill towns. Hunters Woods was built on a ridge and has an equestrian theme. Lake Anne Village, located at the head of the first lake in Reston, was created by a dam in Colvin Run (Grubisich and McCandless).

Lake Anne, named after Simon's wife, was started in the spring of 1963. Inspired by the Italian coastal village of Portofino, the lake's planners wanted to create

a village center with a sense of the past. They felt the location of the village center was important. Developing the center on a lake added depth to the European coastal town feeling they were trying to achieve (Netherton). Lake Anne is more than just a lake. Its plaza contains many shops ranging from a bank, a supermarket, a book store, restaurants, and a hardware store to a dry cleaner, a beauty shop, a pharmacy, and a branch of the Fairfax County Public Library. In addition to the retail functions in Lake Anne, the residential aspect was also incorporated into the village. Above many of the shops are apartments with balconies overlooking the plaza. A fifteen-story high rise building with a view of the entire center is also located in the village. By building housing in the village centers, the planners kept the pedestrian walkways and civic spaces a lively and social foci of the whole village area.

Architectural critic Wolf Von Eckardt said of Lake Anne, "...it is not a mere square but a grand hall with the open sky its ceiling and the lake providing an ever-changing dimension and well-framed kinetic mural" (Netherton, 1989, p. 73).

Reston's business and research and development area is approximately 14% of Reston's total acreage. Land along the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad and land in the western portion of Reston is used for industry and government. This site was also chosen for its topography. The flat ground and soils in this area were unsuitable for residential development, but appropriate for employment facilities. Planners also strategically placed the business and research and development areas along the Dulles Access and Toll Road. In 1963 the Dulles Access Road only allowed travel from Washington, D.C. to Chantilly's Dulles Airport. Reston only had on-ramps for the Dulles Access Road; no exit-ramps were available for motorists traveling from

Washington, D.C. to Reston. In 1971, however, Reston opened its first ramp from the Dulles Access Road (Netherton). This greatly aided Reston's accessibility for those living in or travelling from Washington, D.C.. With exit-ramps open, and completion of the Dulles Toll Road in 1984, Reston was looked upon favorably by businesses. At the end of 1988, some fourteen hundred companies, employing over 31,000 people, had located in Reston.

One of the largest employers in Reston is the United States Geological Survey (USGS). During Reston's dedication ceremony on May 21, 1966, Secretary of the Interior, Stewart L. Udall, announced Reston would be the site for the \$50 million headquarters. Simon offered USGS eighty-five of the needed one hundred acres for its headquarters. The government bought only fifteen of the total one hundred acres (Netherton)! Some of the firms that were established in Reston and have more than five-hundred employees include: Central Intelligence Agency, Fairfax County Government, Grumman Aerospace, Telenet, Unisys Corporation, and U.S. Sprint. In 1983, for the first time in Reston's twenty-two year history, the number of jobs (15,195) outnumbered the number of households (13,600) (Netherton)!

In addition to business and government facilities, Reston is also the home of the National Education Association (NEA), the American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA), and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). NEA, the largest association of educators, moved its facilities to 56 acres near the Reston International Center and established the Reston Center for Educational Associations. The ANPA purchased ten acres next to the NEA to move its New York headquarters to the Washington metropolitan area. In May 1973, the NCTM, which

publishes the *Mathematics Teacher* and *Arithmetic Teachers* journals, established its headquarters in Reston. The NCTM's primary goal is to ensure that kindergarten through post high school teachers have available supplemental materials ranging from the metric system to the latest technology (Netherton).

The sixth and final area of Reston's Master Plan is the Town Center. Twenty-four years after the idea for Reston was first conceived, plans for this key element was unveiled in 1986. The Town Center District is comprised of a total of 460 acres, with the urban core constituting 85 acres. On 20 of the 85 urban core acres, twin towers contain 530,000 square feet of office space, 240,000 square feet of retail space (to include seventy-five shops and restaurants), a 515-room Hyatt Regency Hotel, and an eleven-screen Multiplex theatre. The Center's plan included thirty-one hundred surface and structured parking spaces and an attractive pedestrian streetscape of urban parks, fountains, and bountiful landscaping to promote the feeling of a pleasant "people place". It offers pleasurable strolling, shopping, dining, ice skating and entertainment. A multidiscipline cultural center is planned for the future and will be another amenity for the "urban place in a rural setting," as it was called twenty-eight years ago (Netherton). From the Town Center's tall buildings can be seen the Dulles Airport and the Bull Run Mountains to the west, the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north, and the Potomac River to the east. To the north of the urban core is the North County Government Center, the Fairfax County Reston police substation and county assessments office, Cameron Glen elderly progressive care center, Reston Hospital Center, North County Community Shelter, and the Reston Regional Library.

James Cleveland, President of Reston Land Corporation, described the Town Center as being encased with attractive places to live, work, shop and to be entertained. He thought of it as a destination , a place to visit, for people from both near and far. The Town Center represented Reston's coming of age (Netherton).

Summary

Reston was the first major effort in the United States to build a full-scale self-contained community on the perimeter of a large metropolitan city. Reston was built in an area of the eastern United States which has a long settlement history dating from colonial times. Reston was Robert Simon's creative solution to the twin dangers of unsightly suburban sprawl and haphazard urban spread generated by American's enormous population increase. The town was also an answer to Washington's "Year 2000 Plan". The National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Regional Planning Council for the Washington area created the "Year 2000 Plan" to manage the population surge in post-World War II America. Unplanned and uncontrolled growth had obscured the boundary between city and country while people searched in vain for open space, convenient recreation and natural beauty (Simon Enterprises). The population in the Washington, D.C. area was projected to grow from two million in the early sixties to five million by the year 2000. Both the Commission and Council recommended the creation of new communities "in corridors radiating from the central city" with major portions of the surrounding area reserved as permanent open space. President John F. Kennedy supported the plan and strongly recommended approval by the Executive Branch (Simon Enterprises).

Journalist Marya Mannes summed up the dreams and realities of Reston, stating, "Reston is not a dream-state, an architect's whim or a sociologist's blueprint: It is an effort, born of long deliberation and the awareness of great need, to provide a fuller life for American citizens" (Netherton, 1989, p. 144).

Simon's dream for a new type of town was realized by his tenacious personal vision which enabled him to overcome obstacles to achieving his goals for excellence in town planning. That his ideas and goals were valid is evidenced today by Reston's continuing growth and viability as a unique American town.

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